

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending in this application. Examiner Shafer has rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 9-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of EP 807,551 A2 to Charlet and has indicated that claims 3, 6-8, 12 and 13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of any base claim and any intervening claims. In addition, the Examiner has made minor objections to the specification, drawings and claims.

The rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(b) is traversed. Nevertheless, the applicant herein has canceled claims 2, 3 and 11; and has amended original, independent claim 1 so as to include all of the limitations of rejected dependent claim 2, and allowable dependent claim 3. Thus, claim 1 as amended, and all of claims 4-10, 11 and 12 which depend therefrom are allowable over the art of record. The applicant reserves the right to continue prosecution of the cancelled claims in a continuation application.

The Examiner has objected to claims 1-13 for reasons related to formalities. Claims 1, 8 and 13 have been amended so as to adopt the Examiner's suggestions.

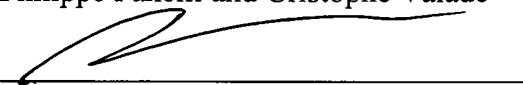
The Examiner has objected to the specification and drawing because, allegedly, the specification does not provide antecedent basis for the term "the stops" in claim 1, and because, allegedly, "the stops" are not identified by reference numerals in the drawings. The applicant disagrees with the Examiner's assessment in that the specification describes "the stops" on page 5, line 17 thereof with reference to Figure 1 so as to provide antecedent basis for that term in the claims. Nevertheless, claim 1 has been amended so as to delete that term from the claims.

In view of the above, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application is earnestly requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's representative by telephone at (206) 381-3300 to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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